

# Accreditation Review Update

Prepared for the Indiana State Board  
Of Education

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Prepared By

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## Background

Accreditation standards are created ~~through by~~ the Indiana General Assembly ~~legislation or by~~ action of the Indiana State Board of Education ~~regulations~~. As recently as February, 2009, the Indiana State Board of Education revised standards ~~through by~~ which schools were ~~held accountable under Accreditation~~ accredited. At that time, the State Board took action to reduce the number of standards from 38 to 29 standards ~~through by~~ ~~eliminating~~ of some standards and combining others, including the following:

- Elimination of the minimum of 250 minutes of instruction per week during a high school term in order to earn a credit for that course,
- Repeal ~~ofing~~ the staff/student and administrative/staff ratios language,
- Revision of Tthe textbook requirement ~~revisions which to~~ allow computer instructional software, internet resources and other media that align with the state's subject matter standards,
- ~~Curricular requirements were r~~ Re-defined and simplified curricular requirements.

Many of the 29 remaining standards relied on the submission of paper forms, often simply confirming that a school was in compliance with a standard. These 'assurance forms' came to the Department of Education by ~~means of~~ mail or fax. Each piece of paper would then be logged and ~~then~~ manually filed, becoming part of the accreditation process for that school.

In June, Dr. Richard Hogue asked me to examine the accreditation process from a fresh perspective and to examine each of the 29 standards. The initial study was to determine which ~~of the~~ standards were actually required, ~~either~~ by statute or ~~by Sstate Bboard~~ regulations, and which ~~ones~~ were not. The review confirmed ~~what had been suspected~~: that several of the existing standards had no basis foundation in statute or regulation. They had been grouped under the umbrella of accreditation as a means of enforcing these requirements. This ~~is~~ does not ~~to~~ diminish the importance of these requirements for schools, but they were never ~~officially~~ intended to become part of the accreditation standards.

Our review of each of the 29 standards produced information concerning which requirements should be: either a) repealed because they were based on statutes or regulations that had expired, b) were never specifically tied to accreditation by law or regulation, or c) were needlessly complex and could easily be combined in more concise standards. This review also provided us with a list of ~~those~~ standards ~~that are~~ specifically required for accreditation.

~~When this most recent Our~~ examination of the ~~entire~~ accreditation process included dialogue with ~~began this summer, it became clear from comments made by~~ building principals and district superintendents. ~~that, Through those conversations we learned that~~ although progress has ~~ed~~ been made in reducing and reforming the number of standards, ~~they building and corporation leaders are were~~ still obligated to finding the accreditation process ~~comply with a unnecessarily burdensome process~~. In many cases, Tthey were are required to certifying standards that, while important, have ~~ved~~ little to do with the quality of the school and should not have risen to the

level of a standard for accreditation. In some cases, the failure to complete a single assurance form would lead to a lowering of accreditation standing.

## Changes Requested

The guiding principles when revising the standards for accreditation were simple. They needed to do the following:

- Be clear and concise.
- Preserve as much local control as possible.
- Require less paperwork, ~~instead~~ relying instead on available technology for reporting.
- Maintain the integrity of the accreditation process.

	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	School Improvement Plan	Retain	Electronic Assurance	Electronic Submission Of Revised SIP Through Electronic Drop Box.
2	Fire Marshall	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Safety
3	Health And Safety	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	
4	IOSHA	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Safety
5	Emergency Preparedness	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Safety
6	Tornado/Manmade Occurrence Drills	Repeal		Expired
7	Immunizations	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Health
8	Visual Acuity	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Health
9	Audiometer Test	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Health
10	Protective Eye Wear	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	School Safety
11	Student Services	Retain	Electronic Assurance	
12	180 Instructional Days	Eliminate		Financial Penalty Applies
13	Curriculum	Retain	Electronic Assurance	Curriculum
14	Textbook Adoption	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	Curriculum
15	School Media Report	Repeal		
16	Special Education	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	Curriculum
17	Bilingual Education	Consolidate	Electronic Assurance	Curriculum

18	Teacher Certification	Retain	Electronic Assurance	
19	Teacher Contract	Retain	Electronic Assurance	
20	Substitute Teacher Compensation	Retain	Electronic Assurance	
21	Staff Evaluation	Retain	Electronic Assurance	
22	Mentoring/Assessment Program	Repeal		
23	Mandatory Assessment [ISTEP]	Retain	Electronic Report From IT	
24	Annual Performance Report	Repeal		This Still Would Be Required By School Districts Under Statutes
25	Accurate/Timely Submissions	Retain	Electronic Report From IT	
26	Homework Policy	Repeal		Policy Still Applies
27	Retaining Students/Athletics	Repeal		Policy Still Applies
28	Pupil/Teacher Ratio	Repeal Pending		
29	Administrative/Staff Ratio	Repeal Pending		

During our analysis, we also discovered two required accreditation standards that have not been addressed. Each can be accommodated through an electronic assurance form. They [are the following](#) include:

- Compliance with graduation requirements. This should be attached as an item to the high school assurance form.
- Remediation Grant requirements compliance. This can be an individual standard.

## Suggested New Standards

1. School Improvement Plan
2. Curricular Compliance
  - a. Special Education Compliance
  - b. Bilingual Education Compliance
  - c. Textbook Compliance
  - d. Graduation Requirements Compliance
3. Mandatory Student Assessment Compliance [ISTEP/ECA]
4. Remediation Grant Rule Compliance
5. Student Services Compliance
6. Student Safety Compliance

- a. Emergency Preparedness Plan
  - b. Student Services
  - c. IOSHA
  - d. Protective Eye Wear
  - e. Fire Marshall
7. Health
- a. Immunizations
  - b. Visual Acuity
  - c. Audiometer
8. Employment of Certified Teachers Compliance
9. Teacher Contract Format Compliance
10. Substitute Teacher Compensation Compliance
11. Staff Evaluation Plan Compliance
12. Timely Submission of Reports

## Technology

~~In reviewing our study~~Through our evaluation, it became apparent that many of the standards could be certified by the building principal using a secure, on-line electronic form. ~~That, when coupled with a~~An on-line scoreboard reflecting the building's instant standing, ~~would~~will allow a building principal to easily monitor ~~his/her~~his or her own progress toward meeting all accreditation requirements. The use of ~~this~~ on-line electronic forms ~~will~~could also significantly reduce the logging and filing of tens of thousands of paper forms and lead to ~~improved~~ accuracy and ~~improved~~ data management at the Department of Education ~~would be a significant advantage as well~~.

## Advisory Group

The following district and building principals will be contacted and invited to review these proposed changes and asked to participate in trials of the technology to be used. They will be contacted after the October 7 State Board meeting and asked to participate ~~after the October 7 state board meeting.~~

1.	Bob Harvey	Principal	White River ES	317-770-2080 x110
			<a href="mailto:bob_harvey@mail.nobl.k12.in.us">bob_harvey@mail.nobl.k12.in.us</a>	
2.	Denis Ward	Superintendent	Danville	317-745-2212
			<a href="mailto:dward@danville.k12.in.us">dward@danville.k12.in.us</a>	
3.	Denise Jacobs	Principal	Carmel Middle School	317-846-7331 x6306
			<a href="mailto:djacobs@ccs.k12.in.us">djacobs@ccs.k12.in.us</a>	
4.	Jim Halik	Superintendent	Southern Hancock	317-861-4463
			<a href="mailto:jhalik@newpal.k12.in.us">jhalik@newpal.k12.in.us</a>	
5.	George Letz	Superintendent	Hebron	219-916-2623
			<a href="mailto:letzg@hebronschools.k12.in.us">letzg@hebronschools.k12.in.us</a>	
6.	Scot Croner	Principal	Belmont HS	260-724-7121
			<a href="mailto:croners@nadams.k12.in.us">croners@nadams.k12.in.us</a>	
7.	Ron Costello	Superintendent	Archdiocese of Indianapolis	317-236-1486
			<a href="mailto:rcostello@archindy.org">rcostello@archindy.org</a>	
8.	Tracy Caddel	Superintendent	Eastern Howard	765-628-3391
			<a href="mailto:tracy.caddell@eastern.k12.in.us">tracy.caddell@eastern.k12.in.us</a>	
9.	Trael Kelly	Principal	Pleasant Grove ES	317-887-8525
			<a href="mailto:kellyt@centergrove.k12.in.us">kellyt@centergrove.k12.in.us</a>	
10.	Terry Garner	Principal	IPS School 19	317-226-4219
			<a href="mailto:garnert@ips.k12.in.us">garnert@ips.k12.in.us</a>	
11.	David Adams	Superintendent	Shelbyville	317-392-2502
			<a href="mailto:daadams@shelbycs.k12.in.us">daadams@shelbycs.k12.in.us</a>	
12.	Ray Mehling	Principal	Ireland Elementary	812-482-7751
			<a href="mailto:rmehling@gics.k12.in.us">rmehling@gics.k12.in.us</a>	
13.	John Elcesser	Executive Director	Indiana Non-Public Schools Assn	317-236-7329
			<a href="mailto:jelcesser@archindy.org">jelcesser@archindy.org</a>	
14.	Steve Ulrich	Principal	Tri County Intermediate	219-279-2138
			<a href="mailto:ulrichs@trico.k12.in.us">ulrichs@trico.k12.in.us</a>	

## Conclusion

These proposals are the result of ~~an~~the extensive study of state statutes and regulations ~~of the Indiana State Board of Education and. There were several~~ conversations with Department of Education staff in the areas of Curriculum, Exceptional Learners and Student Services ~~staff~~. There is consensus among these groups that ~~this~~ese proposals ~~is~~are consistent with their missions. Additionally, the proposalsit significantly reduces the burden on local school administrators at the school and district levels and ~~does do~~ so without compromising the integrity of the accreditation process.

I believe local administrators will ~~very positively~~ view this proposal as positive progress. The standards are clear and concise and preserve as much local control as possible.

My intent is to report to you at this meeting, make any requested changes, and submit the proposal to the listed group of school administrators for their feedback.













I anticipate asking for final State Board approval at the November meeting.



## Appendix A Proposed Electronic Accreditation Scoreboard

### 2009-2010 Academic Year Accreditation Requirements

#### Primary Scoreboard

1		School Improvement Plan Submitted	Electronic Drop Box Submission
2		Curricular Compliance Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
3		Student Assessment Compliance[ISTEP/ECA]	95% From Assessment
4		Remediation Grant Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
5		Student Services Compliance Assurance	Electronic Assurance
6		Student Safety & Assurances Submitted	Electronic Assurance
7		Student Health Compliance	Electronic Transmission
8		Employment of Certified Teachers Assurance Submitted	DOE-CE/CP
9		Standardized Teacher Contract Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
10		Substitute Teacher Compensation Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance
11		Staff Evaluation Plan Assurance Submitted	Electronic Assurance + Drop Box
12		Timely Submission of Reports	Electronic Report from IT

## Appendix B      Proposed Electronic Assurance Form: HS Curriculum

[Proposed]  
HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM POLICY- ASSURANCE FORM

Indiana Curriculum as required by State Board of Education rules, which state [the following](#):

High School curriculum shall include:

1. all courses and learning areas required by 511 IAC 6-7; 511 IAC 6-7.1
2. a sufficient number and variety of elective courses so that students are able to fulfill elective requirements of 511 IAC 6-7 and 511 IAC 6-7.1 within four years and carry five or more courses each semester. Course offerings of cooperative and joint schools qualify to meet these requirements;
3. course offerings in English/language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, fine arts, health and safety, physical education, and career and technical education;
4. instructional programs that provide all students with opportunities to acquire a set of skills and content knowledge defined in the academic standards in courses in which they enroll;
5. high school credits which are awarded based on a minimum number of minutes of instruction or on demonstration of proficiency in courses that is/are:
  - a. listed in the Indiana State Approved Course Titles and Descriptions.
  - b. consistent with Indiana Academic Standards;
6. high school graduation requirements as specified in State Board of Education rules.

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After reviewing our school's curriculum using the Indiana Department of Education's [Indiana High School Curriculum Checklist](#), and as a building official, authorized to submit this report and by typing my name below, I certify that this building is in compliance with all requirements detailed above.

Corp #	Sch #	Type Name of Authorized Official Submitting This Report Below	Date Signed

## Appendix C      Proposed Electronic Assurance Form: Safety Assurance

### [Proposed]

#### 2009-2010 Academic Year Safety Requirements Assurance Form

Accreditation Legal Standard 7 requires that this school [complies with the following](#):

Click each check box to confirm school compliance.

- ☐ has access to a certified School Safety Specialist, either at the building level or at the corporation level.
- ☐ has an established building-based School Safety Committee and that a School Safety Plan that complies with the provisions of 511 IAC 6.1-2-2.5 is available to all staff and is revised on a yearly basis.
- ☐ requires the wearing of industrial quality eye protective devices by both students and teachers while working with dangerous learning situations. IC 20-34-3-19.
- ☐ is in full compliance with IOSHA standards. 511 IAC 6.1-2-1
- ☐ has not failed a fire inspection in the past 12 months. 511 IAC 6.1-2-1

As a building official, authorized to submit this report and by typing my name below, I certify that the safety requirements listed above are in compliance in this school.

Corp #	Sch #	Type Name of Authorized Official Submitting This Report Below	Date Signed